



# KANSAS STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM

## Frequently Asked Questions

For more information: <http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/FundLoan.html>

Email questions to: [kdhe.primarycare@ks.gov](mailto:kdhe.primarycare@ks.gov)

### What is the State Loan Repayment Program?

The State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) offers eligible health care professionals assistance with the repayment of qualifying educational loans in exchange for a minimum two-year service commitment at an eligible practice site in a federally designated Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA).

*The SLRP funds are to be used as an annual one-time lump sum payment toward eligible student loans. The SLRP participant is responsible for other regularly scheduled loan payments throughout the year if the loan requires them.*

### How many SLRP awards are granted each year?

The SLRP is a very competitive program with limited funds. The number of awards granted will vary each year and will depend on the number of continuations granted and the amount of funds available. Continuation awards are granted to eligible health care professionals who have completed the original two-year contract and wish to continue with the SLRP, in one year increments, for up to three additional years. Contract continuation requests will take precedence over new applications.

### Are the SLRP funds counted as taxable income?

No, all SLRP funds are state and federal non-taxable and are not counted as income.

### Does my discipline or specialty qualify for the SLRP and how much am I eligible to receive?

The following chart lists the qualified disciplines and the maximum award for each year of participation.

#### Eligible Health Care Professions and SLRP Award Amounts

HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL		DISCIPLINE	INITIAL SERVICE		CONTINUATION		
			YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3	YEAR 4	YEAR 5
MD	Allopathic Medicine	Primary Care/Mental Health	Up to \$25,000	Up to \$25,000	\$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000
DO	Osteopathic Medicine	Primary Care/Mental Health					
DDS	Dental Surgery	Dental Health					
DMD	Dental Medicine	Dental Health					
APRN/NP	Nurse Practitioner	Primary Care	Up to \$20,000	Up to \$20,000	\$15,000	\$10,000	\$5,000
PA	Physician Assistant	Primary Care					
CNM	Certified Nurse Midwife	Primary Care					
RDH	Registered Dental Hygienist	Dental Health					
APRN/NP	Nurse Practitioner - Mental Health	Mental Health					
PA	Physician Assistant - Mental Health	Mental Health					
HSP	Health Service Psychologist	Mental Health					
LCSW	Licensed Clinical Social Worker	Mental Health					
LMAC*	Licensed Masters Addiction Counselor	Mental Health					
LPC	Licensed Professional Counselor	Mental Health					
MFT	Marriage and Family Therapist	Mental Health					
PNS	Psychiatric Nurse Specialist	Mental Health					

\* Due to the growing substance abuse crisis, specifically opioid abuse, the NHSC and the SLRP have added Licensed Masters Addiction Counselors (LMAC) to the list of behavioral and mental health care professionals.

### Are hospitalists and emergency medicine approved specialties in the SLRP?

No, hospitalists and emergency medicine are not eligible for the SLRP, all services must be provided as direct outpatient care.

### **What are the eligibility requirements for the SLRP?**

To qualify for the SLRP, health care professionals must meet the following criteria:

- be a US citizen (either US born or naturalized) or US National;
- have a valid, unrestricted health care license or certificate from the appropriate Kansas licensing or certification board;
- have no other existing service obligations/commitments;
- be free of judgments arising from federal debt;
- agree to use the SLRP funds only to repay qualifying educational loans.

### **What is proof of US citizenship?**

- US birth certificate
- US passport
- certificate of naturalization
- certificate of citizenship
- certification of consular registration of birth abroad
- driver's license and social security cards are **NOT** proof of US citizenship

### **What would cause me to NOT be eligible for the SLRP?**

Any of the following would cause the applicant to be disqualified for the SLRP:

- defaulted on any federal payment obligations;
- breached a prior service obligation to the federal/state/local government or other entity, even if the obligation has been subsequently satisfied;
- had any federal or non-federal debt written off as uncollectible or received a waiver of any federal service or payment obligation; or
- not currently employed or have accepted full-time employment (minimum of 40 hours per week, 45 weeks per year) providing at least 32 hours direct patient care in an eligible discipline, at an approved practice site located in a designated HPSA;
- be in a current service obligation with any other entity (federal, state, local government or local or private entity, such as a sign-on bonus in exchange for service at the employing health care facility).

### **Is my practice site eligible for the SLRP?**

The practice site must be a public or non-profit health care site and accept Medicare, Medicaid/KanCare, and also have a sliding fee scale for those individuals that meet the federal poverty guidelines. Sliding fee scale requirements include:

- for individuals with annual income at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) guidelines, the practice site must provide services at no charge, or at a nominal charge; and
- for individuals between 100% and 200% of the FPL, the practice site must provide a sliding fee scale which should reflect a nominal charge covered by a third party (either public or private). The practice site may charge for services to the extent that payment will be made by a third party, which is authorized or under legal obligation to pay the charges.

### **How do I find the Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) designation for my area or practice site?**

There are three HPSA categories; primary care, dental care and mental health. The health care professional must practice in an eligible practice site in the appropriate HPSA category for their profession. To find the HPSA designation for your area go to: <https://datawarehouse.hrsa.gov/tools/analyzers/hpsafind.aspx>.

### **Can I apply for the SLRP if I currently owe an existing service obligation?**

A service obligation is the contractual commitment in which a clinician legally agrees to practice for a specified period of time in a particular area or facility, or for a specific entity or type of entity. Entities may include federal, state or local agencies, as well as private organizations. Health care professionals must not have an outstanding contractual obligation for health professional service to the federal government, or to a state or other entity, unless they completely satisfy that service obligation before applying to the SLRP. Certain provisions in employment contracts can create a service obligation (an employer offers a physician a recruitment bonus in return for the physician's agreement to work at that practice site for a specific period of time or pay back the bonus).

### **Can I apply for more than one loan repayment program at a time?**

You are highly encouraged to apply for the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Loan Repayment Program if your practice site is in a Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) with a score of 15 or higher, you may also apply for the SLRP during the same year. The NHSC and the SLRP work closely together to ensure no health care

professional may participate in multiple loan repayment programs. If you are accepted into the NHSC, your SLRP application will be dismissed.

#### **What types of loans are eligible for the SLRP?**

Government (federal, state or local) and commercial loans (i.e., private student loans) incurred to obtain the profession education the health care profession is practicing in will qualify for the program. The participant must obtain the educational loans prior to the date of the application for the SLRP.

#### **Are consolidated and/or refinanced loans eligible for the SLRP?**

Consolidated loans may be eligible within the following guidelines:

- if loans are consolidated, the consolidated/refinanced loan must be from a government (federal, state or local) or commercial lender and must include only the applicant's qualifying educational loans;
- if an eligible educational loan is consolidated/refinanced with ineligible (non-qualifying) debt, no portion of the consolidated/refinanced loan will be eligible for loan repayment; and
- if an eligible educational loan is consolidated/refinanced with loans owed by any other person, such as a spouse or child, no portion of the consolidated/refinanced loan will be eligible for loan repayment.

#### **What types of loans are NOT eligible for the SLRP?**

Loans that are not eligible for the SLRP include:

- loans that are currently in default;
- loans for which the applicant incurred a service obligation, which will not be fulfilled before the deadline for submission of the SLRP application;
- loans for which the associated documentation cannot identify that the loan was solely applicable to the undergraduate or graduate education of the applicant;
- loans not obtained from a government entity or private student loan lending institution, most loans made by private foundations to individuals are not eligible for repayment;
- loans already paid in full;
- Parent PLUS loans (made to parents);
- personal lines of credit;
- loans subject to cancellation;
- residency loans; and
- credit card debt.

#### **When can I apply for the SLRP?**

The SLRP application cycle is open June 1 to July 31 of each year. Applications will only be accepted during this time period.

#### **What are the terms and conditions of the SLRP Contract?**

SLRP award recipients must serve at a public or non-profit private entity in a designated HPSA. They must serve full-time for a minimum of two years (a minimum of 40 hours per week, 45 weeks per year, 32 hours of which must be spent providing direct patient care). The SLRP funds are to be used as an annual one-time lump sum payment toward eligible student loans and do not replace regularly scheduled loan payments. If a health care professional chooses to apply for a contract continuation after fulfilling the original two-year contract, he or she must continue to meet the same program requirements for the duration of the contract.

#### **What happens if I am unable to fulfill the terms of my Contract obligation and complete my service obligation?**

If a health care professional defaults on the SLRP obligation, he or she will be responsible for repaying an amount equal to the sum of the following:

- the amounts paid to the participant for any period **not** served;
- the number of months **not** served, multiplied by \$7,500; and
- interest accrued on above amounts; **and**
- the total amount shall not be less than \$31,000 per federal regulations.

#### **Will I be notified if I am accepted or denied participation in the SLRP?**

All applicants will be informed of their acceptance into the SLRP.

For more information about the SLRP guidelines and requirements, read the *Overview and Application Guidance* document on the KDHE website: <http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/FundLoan.html>.

Submit all documents to:

State Loan Repayment Program  
Office of Primary Care & Rural Health  
Bureau of Community Health Systems  
1000 SW Jackson St, Suite 340  
Topeka KS 66612-1365  
Phone: 785-296-3135